

TELEGRAM

6/27/78

CN 4929
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INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

BH 109

(5) 25

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

XGDS-1
SHUM, ~~XXX~~ ELAB, PINS, PEPR, PGOV, MPOL, AR, US
NAVY HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AND MASSERA VISIT TO WASHINGTON

ACTION:
INFO:

SECSTATE WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ BUENOS AIRES 4929
CNO FOR OP 613
1. Human Rights Initiatives - - - - -

AMB
A/DCM
POL 3
POL/R
ECOM
ICA
DAO
RF
CHRON

Junta member and Navy CINC Admiral Massera in an unscheduled ~~meeting~~ meeting on June 23 with Embassy Poloff claims regarding it has been making reiterated Navy's efforts towards solving human rights problems in Argentina. In a surprising move, Massera Emboff briefly read what ~~Massera~~ appeared to be let ~~Massera~~ recent exchange of secret letters between himself and President Videla. Massera's letter, which had a drafting date of May 30, urged the outgoing Junta members to take positive action on two issues termed difficult and critical to the future development of Argentina. Massera's first proposal was that the Argentine armed forces collect, analyze and publish all available information regarding persons who have died in confrontations with "anti-subversive forces." Secondly, the Massera letter proposed that

DRAFTED BY:

POL:FAHarris:jk

DRAFTING DATE

6/26/78

TEL. EXT.

277

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/DCM: JRH

CLEARANCES:

POL:AGFreeman

DAO:Capt. PDBarrish (draft)

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

5010 Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

81F93

(51/52)

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the Junta expedite the legal proceedings against those persons held under the Acta Institucional and regularize the status of these individuals.

2. President Videla's letter of reply simply referred to the Massera letter and said that the issues raised should be discussed at the next Junta meeting. Massera explained that his proposals were rejected by the other Junta members at that meeting. Massera then referred to a February 1978 AFL-CIO Spanish language newsletter which contained an article on the ^{labor} ~~union~~ situation in Argentina with special criticism directed against him. He complained, albeit diplomatically, that despite his actions on behalf of human rights, his efforts were not recognized.

3. Visit to Washington -----

Admiral Massera said that in late July, he would be making a formal visit to Venezuela and obliquely referred to his wish to touch base in the United States. (At conclusion of meeting with Admiral Massera, Deputy Secretary General of the Navy, Luchetta, stated directly that Admiral Massera would like to visit Washington after his visit to Venezuela to meet with senior USG officials in Washington.)

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4. Maggio Letter - - - - -

During the conversation, Massera noted that the Navy believed that the Maggio letter/which alleged (See Buenos Aires 3244.) that a number of individuals were held in a detention facility in the Navy Mechanical School was in fact a product of the Army's First Corps. Massera shrugged his shoulders and said what could he do against this type of propaganda. (Note: Although Embassy believes that there is a ~~very~~ possibility that the Maggio letter was manufactured as black propaganda by the Army, Massera's blaming the First Corps would be his best case even if the the genuine work of ~~the~~ letter was a ~~genuine~~ Montonero ~~agent~~ agent.)

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5. Comment: In view of the fact that Massera is a short-timer expected to give up his post on September 15, in view of his ~~highly~~ manipulative style and his political ambitions and in view of President Videla's sensitivities to Massera's antics, Massera's proposed trip to the US is something we will want to approach ~~very~~ cautiously. As we ~~can~~ learn more about Massera's intentions and how serious his feeler is about wanting to visit the US, Embassy will submit its recommendations.

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CASTRO

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